

Application Number 10/029,355
Amendment dated July 18, 2005
Responsive to Office Action mailed May 16, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-34 (Cancelled).

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A method comprising:

receiving sterilization process information from a sterilization facility via a computer network, wherein the sterilization process information includes characteristics of a sterilization process;

identifying a type of a sterilization material based on the characteristics of the sterilization process;

determining consumption of a quantity of a the sterilization material by the sterilization facility based on the sterilization process information; and

processing an order for delivery of an additional quantity of the sterilization material to the sterilization facility based on the determination.

Claim 36 (Original): The method of claim 35, wherein the sterilization material includes at least one of sterilant, pack material, and indicators.

Claim 37 (Original): The method of claim 35, wherein the sterilization material includes electronic information for generation of a printed indicator, the method further comprising transmitting the electronic information to the client via the computer network.

Claim 38 (Original): The method of claim 35, wherein the sterilization material includes self-indicating ink, the method further comprising delivering a quantity of the ink to the client.

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Claim 39 (Cancelled).

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): A system comprising:

a client computer, associated with a sterilization facility, that transmits sterilization process information via a computer network, the sterilization process information including characteristics of a sterilization process; and

a network server that receives the sterilization process information from the client computer via the computer network, identifies a type of a sterilization material based on the characteristics of the sterilization process, determines consumption of a quantity of a the sterilization material by the sterilization facility based on the sterilization process information, and processes an order for delivery of an additional quantity of the sterilization material to the sterilization facility based on the determination.

Claim 41 (Original): The system of claim 40, wherein the sterilization material includes at least one of sterilant, pack material, and indicators.

Claim 42 (Original): The system of claim 40, wherein the sterilization material includes electronic information for generation of a printed indicator, and the network server transmits the electronic information to the client via the computer network.

Claim 43 (Original): The system of claim 40, wherein the sterilization material includes self-indicating ink, and the network server processes an order for delivery of a quantity of the ink to the client.

Claim 44 (Cancelled).

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Claim 45 (Currently Amended): A method comprising:

receiving sterilization process information from a sterilization facility via a computer network, wherein the sterilization process information includes characteristics of a sterilization process;

identifying a type of a sterilization material based on the characteristics of the sterilization process;

determining consumption of a quantity of a the sterilization material by the sterilization facility based on the sterilization process information;

processing an order for delivery of an additional quantity of the sterilization material to the sterilization facility based on the determination;

scheduling maintenance for sterilization equipment associated with the sterilization facility based on the sterilization process information;

generating a report that indicates compliance with sterilization process standards based on the sterilization process information; and

providing a reviewer with access to the report via the computer network.

Claim 46 (Original): The method of claim 45, wherein the reviewer is a regulatory agency or an audit organization.

Claim 47 (Original): The method of claim 45, wherein the report identifies individual sterilization loads and load contents, and the report includes sterilization processing characteristics for the individual sterilization loads, the sterilization processing characteristics for each load including type of sterilizer, sterilizer identification, cycle time, sterilization time, temperature, and pressure.

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Claim 48 (Currently Amended): A system comprising:

a client computer, associated with a sterilization facility, that transmits sterilization process information via a computer network, the sterilization process information including characteristics of a sterilization process; and

a network server that:

identifies a type of a sterilization material based on the characteristics of the sterilization process.

determines consumption of a quantity of a the sterilization material by the sterilization facility based on the sterilization process information;

processes an order for delivery of an additional quantity of the sterilization material to the sterilization facility based on the determination;

schedules maintenance for sterilization equipment associated with the sterilization facility based on the sterilization process information;

generates a report that indicates compliance with sterilization process standards based on the sterilization process information; and

provides a reviewer with access to the report via the computer network.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended): The method system of claim 48, wherein the reviewer is a regulatory agency or an audit organization.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): The method system of claim 48, wherein the report identifies individual sterilization loads and load contents, and the report includes sterilization processing characteristics for the individual sterilization loads, the sterilization processing characteristics for each load including type of sterilizer, sterilizer identification, cycle time, sterilization time, temperature, and pressure.

Claim 51-54 (Cancelled).